Agreement for closer Indo-US Defence Ties

925. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of a US-delegation led by President Bill Clinton's Special Envoy Mr. Richardson, any agreement or understanding has been reached for closer Indo-US defence ties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The visit of the delegation led by Ambassador, Bill Richardson, US Permanent Representative to UN from April 14-15, 1998 was in the context of the broad-based dialogue in which the United States and India have been engaged for the last several months. As part of this process, Indo-US defence cooperation activities which have been proceeding under the 1995 "Agreed Minutes of Defence Relations between India and the United States," were also discussed. These involve service-to-service cooperation activities, training etc., as well as cooperation in a Joint Technology Group on research and development. No new agreement was signed during the visit.

US Intervention in between India and Pakistan

926. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made complaint to the US Government recently about the proliferation of weapon by Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the justification for inviting outside power like the US to intervene instead of dealing with Pakistan at the regional level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Pakistan has a long-standing programme to acquire nuclear weapons and missiles through clandestine procurement and transfers from outside. Government has made known its legitimate security concerns to all concerned including the United States.

Government has also made it clear that there is no scope for outside interference in bilateral matters.

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् द्वारा विदेशों में सांस्कृतिक केन्द्रों की समीक्षा

927. **श्री नागमणि:**
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् विदेशों में स्थित सांस्कृतिक केन्द्रों के कार्यकलापों की समीक्षा करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो तत्संबंधी कारण क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) और (ख) विदेश स्थित भारतीय सांस्कृतिक केन्द्रों के कार्यों का भारतीय सांस्कृतिक परिषद् के संघटक निकायों अर्थात् शॉसी निकाय तथा आम सभा द्वारा निरन्तर परीक्षण और समीक्षा की जाती है। इस प्रक्रिया के आधार पर आई सी सी आर की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट तैयार की जाती है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Finalisation of Trade and Commerce Cooperation with Brazil

928. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the issues of trade, commerce and co-operation discussed and finalised during recent visit of the President to Brazil; and

(b) the measures proposed to acquire permanent membership of the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) During the bilateral discussions with the President of Brazil, commercial relations and cooperation between the two countries were discussed. It was noted that there was ample scope for further expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation in areas like electronics, computer software, telecommunication, aviation, railways, steel, pharmaceuticals, traditional Indian medicine, automobiles, motor-cycles, scooters and cycles. Possibilities of collaborations and joint ventures in some of the areas were also discussed. The Brazilian side has shown keenness to obtain fresh genetic material from India for their cattle. About 80% of the Brazilian cattle is from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. An Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine under the bilateral agreement on Science & Technology was also signed which will help in expanding trade exchanges in these sectors.

(b) the two Presidents discussed the question of reform of the Security Council. During the discusssions, India and Brazil renewed their support for each other's candidature for the permanent seat in the expanded Security Council as pledged in the Joint Declaration issued at the end of President Cardoso's visit to India in January 1996. Both countries agreed to work closely together to achieve this objective.

Signing of CTBT during US President's Visit

929. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty during US President's proposed visit this year; and

(b) the reasons for deviating from the past practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Orientation Programme for Haj Pilgrims

930. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had conducted any orientation programme for the Haj pilgrims before their departure for Haj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether booklets giving information about the Haj facilities available and do's and dont's are also supplied in advance to every Haji;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, sir. Training/orientation programme are done for the Haj pilgrims by the Haj Committee, Mumbai, and the various State Haj Committees.

(c) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

Statement

The Haj Committee, Mumbai conducts regular lecture classes at Haj House during the Haj season. Pilgrims stay for this in Mumbai for three days. In respect of other embarkation points like Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Calcutta and Srinagar, special training camps were orgranised last year and this year by the State Haj Committees concerned and voluntary organisations at District and Taluks level.

Annual camps are organised by organisations like Markazi-Khidmat-ul-Hujjaj, Aurangabad; the District Haj